

REMARKS

Formal drawings are being submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval and entry.

claims 10-17 and 28-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,259,060 of Edward *et al.* Accordingly, claims 16 and 28 have been amended and new claim 30 has been added.

The present invention is a method of making an optical fiber by drawing the fiber and coating it with first and second protective coatings and a color coating (although not necessarily in that sequence) and then, after application of all three coatings, curing them in a curing oven (element 20 in Fig. 1). The application of the coatings is by a single applicator assembly, as shown in Fig. 3, thereby materially reducing the production time, and the coatings are cured in a single oven, reducing both production time and production costs.

Edward *et al.* (hereinafter "Edward") disclose a color coated hermetically sealed optical fiber comprising a clad optical fiber 10, 12; a hermetic coating 14 bonded to the cladding 12; an inner protective primary coating 20; an opaque, white pigmented protective coating 22; and a color coating 24, as shown in Fig. 1. In Fig. 2, the white pigmented coating overlies the hermetic coating, and the inner protective coating becomes the outer protective coating.

Edward sets forth the method of producing the optical fiber of Fig. 1 in column 6, lines 39-68 and column 7, lines 1-44. In that method, after application of the hermetic seal layer, a curable liquid organic resin, such as a UV curable urethane-acrylate resin, is applied and promptly cured, forming a soft inner primary coating.

The next step in the method applies an outer primary coating to the inner, cured coating. The outer coating is pigmented with a white pigment. The outer coating, which is an acrylate resin, is then UV cured.


The final step involves application of a radiation curable coloring ink, which may be UV curable.

Thus, it can be seen that the reference does not disclose curing the layers only after all of the layers have been laid down, as claimed in claim 10, as well as all of the remaining claims, including new claim 30 and amended claims 16 and 28. Thus, these claims are believed to be allowable over the reference.

New claim 30 is generic to the embodiments of the invention shown in Figs. 2A, 2B, and 2C. Edward does not disclose nor suggest the variations shown in these figures. For example, Edward shows a reversal of the positions of layers 22 and 20 in Figs. 1 and 2, with the coloring layer 24 remaining as the outermost coating. In applicants' arrangements as shown in Figs. 2A, 2B, and 2C, the color coating may be the second coating (Fig. 2A), the innermost coating (Fig. 2B), or the outermost coating (Fig. 2C). Claim 30 is believed to cover the three embodiments, and is not shown or suggested in Edward.

For the foregoing reasons, all of the claims in the case are believed to be clearly allowable, and favorable action in that regard is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In the Drawings:

Please replace the informal drawings with the attached replacement formal drawings (sheets 1-12, showing Figs. 1, 2A-2C, 3-12) which conform without substantive amendment to the present informal drawings.